(c) A committee has been set up to examine the need for a new international airport at Hyderabad. its report is awaited.

Expansion of Air Service from Kerala to Gulf Countries

2005. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with Government to Start more services from the Airports at Kerala to Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government will permit foreign Airlines to have Service from Kochi Airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Proposals have been received from Government of Sri Lanka and Government of Oman for increasing services of their designated airlines from Thiruvananthapuram Airport. The Government of UAE and Government of Saudi Arabia have also requested for Thiruvananthapuram as an additional point of call for their designated airlines. Proposals have also been received from the Government of Oman and Government of Saudi Arabia for grant of Kochi as a point of call for their designated airlines.

(c) and (d) So far, Kochi has not been granted as a point of call to any foreign airline. International services are, however, operated out of Cochin Airport by Air India and Indian Airlines.

Facilities to HAJ Pilgrims At Nedumbasseri Airport

2006. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representations to declare Nedumbasseri airport as an embarkation point for Haj-2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to enhance facilities of the Haj pilgrims travelling by Air India/Indian Airlines?